

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at Adforton Village Hall.**

Present:

Councillors: Phillip Barnett, Maggie Brown, Tom Dixon, Clive Gurney, Susan Harley, Trevor Pritchard, John Walker, Simon Whiteman (Chair)

In attendance:

Clerk/RFO Maureen Robinson

Ward Cllr Carole Gandy

Locality Steward Mike Brookes

Footpaths Officer, Mike Oliver and Joe Thomas

2 members of public

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from: Cllr Chilman (holiday). Cllr Harley arrived at 7.45 following another meeting

2. Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensations: Cllr Walker declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 15 on agenda as an employee of one of organisations involved. Cllr Harley declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5. (Both signed the Declaration book) No requests for dispensations.

3. Open Session – brief verbal reports received from:

3.1 Ward Cllr Gandy presented her report which included details of grants to assist community groups, Parish and Town Councils, clubs and not-for-profit organisations prepare for faster broadband <http://www.fastershire.com/> or telephone 01432 260691. Other items on gritting, s106 money and the Neighbourhood Plan can be found in relevant sections below.

3.2 Locality Steward – gritting on secondary routes was raised again in relation to the route of the school bus from Lingen via Birtley. Mike explained that all routes are set by HC not Balfour Beatty and the Parish Council and Ward Cllr should petition for additions to primary routes during the summer but will be dependent on budgets. Secondary routes will be gritted if snow is forecast or there is a prolonged spell of bad weather. It was **AGREED** to follow up at the Annual Meeting in May. Mike added the Balfour Beatty Highways contract has only allowed for 2 days of snow clearance on A roads. Should more be required then money would have to be found from elsewhere in the budget. The poor quality of some pothole repairs was raised and apparently there has been a shortage of bitumen. The traffic lights on Leintwardine bridge were discussed. The bridge was recently damaged by a vehicle and as it is Grade 2 listed, permission to carry out work falls across many agencies. It is likely the lights will remain pro tem. A site meeting with the drainage team is to be confirmed regarding the culvert at Stoneybridge

3.3 PCSO Pete Knight – not present

3.4 Chair and Councillors reports – None

3.5 Local residents – a resident asked if there had been any progress on the Old Chapel. Ward Cllr Gandy explained it was now secure and pre- application discussions had taken place with the owner. A bat survey is now required but that can only be done at certain times of year. Ward Cllr Gandy also reported that both senior Planning Officers had left HC.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting – 20th December 2016

These were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman

5. Neighbourhood Plan

5.1 Cllr Brown expressed dismay that no flyers had been delivered in Brampton Bryan despite the start of the NP consultation on January 12th. It was acknowledged that this was regrettable and would be addressed straight away so that residents of Brampton Bryan still have plenty of time to comment on the NP and suffer no disadvantage.

Cllr Dixon said he was holding a meeting at Walford Grange for Walford residents to discuss the Plan on 13th February.

Dates for formal consultation evenings for all residents at Adforton, Lingen and Leintwardine are to be confirmed shortly. Cllr Chilman needs to produce the article for the BGPC website explaining more about the process. It was agreed to use the Reg 14 flyer in the interim. Copies of the Meeting Housing Needs document will be placed with the Plan in all 5 locations across Border group in the next couple of days. Cllr Walker has produced an online survey and will forward any responses to the Clerk as agreed previously.

Ward Cllr Gandy re-iterated a written statement on 12th December from the Minister of State for Housing and Planning confirming where a NP is in force, planning permission should not normally be granted unless there is a significant lack of land supply in the wider local authority area i.e. less than 3 years' supply of deliverable housing sites. It also advises where recent applications have been approved solely due to a lack of a 5 year land supply those approvals should be rescinded.

Minutes/other information from any NP meetings will be made available on lingenweb and the BGPC website - www.bordergroup-pc.org - where a separate page has been set up for easy access to information around NP

6. Finance

6.1 The quarterly reports (Oct – Dec 16) will be presented at the February meeting. It was requested these be sent in Excel rather than PDF.

6.2 It was **AGREED** to continue with Clerk acting as RFO with support from Andrew Gray

6.3 It was **AGREED** to pay Clerk's expenses of £71.99 for January (chq no 101634)

7. Planning - to consider comments to Herefordshire Council on the following: None received

Ward Cllr Gandy reported that no date has been set for the Togpen application to be heard by the Planning committee

7.1 Standing item : ref. use of Planning Obligation Agreement s106 monies in respect of Home Farm, Lingen. Ref DCNW/2008/3016/F, 113046/F.

Ward Cllr Gandy had recently emailed Yvonne Coleman twice seeking an update but had not received a response to date. BGPC were very frustrated at the lack of response as this matter has been ongoing for over 2 years and felt that it was extremely discourteous not to reply, even if there had been no progress. It was **AGREED** to write to Geoff Hughes, Director for Economy, Communities and Corporate at HC, and express our dissatisfaction at the way this has been handled. Clerk to draft a letter.

8. Highways

8.1 P3 (footpaths) – work is dependent on decision over materials and will be finalised at February Meeting. A replacement for a dangerous footbridge in Lingen (previously raised with Balfour Beatty) was discussed. This would need to be provided by Balfour Beatty as our Footpaths contractor is only allowed to install 'ditch crossings' which span less than 3 metres. It would also use up most of our annual P3 budget.

8.2. Lengthsman Scheme – a discussion took place over current spending levels and the consensus was in region of £800 per quarter. The Annual Maintenance Plan will be approved in February. A request was made for the grips to be cleaned out in Brampton Bryan

8.3 Expected Expenditure request – it was **AGREED** in principle to P3/Lengthsman work being carried out subject to costings obtained at 8.1. Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Brown
 8.4 Grit bins – additional ones still to be purchased but Cllr Chilman to check with Locality Steward over replacements for damaged ones.

- 9. **To consider** the Freight Survey – this was completed at the meeting and will be filled in and submitted on-line by the Clerk
- 10. **To consider** Broadband provision across BGPC – 137 properties are not covered by the BT contract which ended in December. Residents can go to the BT website and put in their postcode to find out current status. Properties which are shown to be connected by end of December will be done by March 17. Ward Cllr Gandy requested to be notified if any residents contact the PC if their address is not shown on the fastershire website. It was **AGREED** to put links to both sites onto BGPC website
- 11. **To consider** Sustainable Transformation Plan for Herefordshire and Worcestershire – following a discussion it was considered more appropriate to respond as individuals and not from PC. Please see link <http://www.hacw.nhs.uk/yourconversation/>. The Plan aims to reduce the number of community beds and fund care at home as this has been shown to reduce recovery time and is more cost effective. The dilemma is that beds will be closed before other services are in place with no savings to support alternative services
- 12. **To note** Information sheet/ Correspondence received and responded to. **NOTED (No correspondence received)**
- 13. **To raise** matters for next meeting agenda. No discussion
 - Sign for Orchard Close, Adforton
 - BGPC website changes
 - To record actions from December meeting re Clerk Employment
 - To confirm Internal Auditor

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.35 p.m. The next Meeting will take place at Brampton Bryan Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st February 2017

Signed..... Date.....